

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

# October 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource

**Government  
of Alberta** ■

[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

### News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Answer | Word          | Definition                         |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------------|
|        | 1. bizarre    | a) hit hard                        |
|        | 2. injured    | b) worried                         |
|        | 3. alley      | c) thought to be guilty            |
|        | 4. slammed    | d) a formal accusation             |
|        | 5. suspected  | e) hurt                            |
|        | 6. remorseful | f) held in place by something      |
|        | 7. concerned  | g) driving quickly                 |
|        | 8. pinned     | h) strange                         |
|        | 9. racing     | i) small side street behind houses |
|        | 10. charged   | j) feeling deep regret             |

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ after a bizarre crash in St. Paul, AB.                  | a) A girl is dead<br>b) A driver was injured                  |
| 2. _____ grade _____ students were injured.                      | a) Eight / six<br>b) Six / eight                              |
| 3. The minivan was racing _____                                  | a) another car in the streets.<br>b) through the back alleys. |
| 4. The minivan slammed into the _____ of the Racette School.     | a) ground floor window<br>b) playground                       |
| 5. Three students were _____                                     | a) taken to the hospital.<br>b) pinned under the van.         |
| 6. The 46 year old driver is _____ and _____ about the children. | a) charged / cares<br>b) remorseful / concerned               |

### Discussion Question

What can we do to prevent car accidents? Do you drive? Why do you think this story upset so many people?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|           |                      |                   |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|
| discovery | <del>connected</del> | homicide (murder) |
| previous  | victim               | garbage           |
| evening   | in his fifties       | investigate       |

1. When two things are related we may say they are connected.
2. The person who suffers because of a crime is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When there is a \_\_\_\_\_ the police must \_\_\_\_\_ all the clues to find out who committed the crime.
4. The police made a very important \_\_\_\_\_ that will help them solve the crime.
5. My father is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Every week the \_\_\_\_\_ truck picks up our trash.
7. Every \_\_\_\_\_ after I get home from work I make dinner.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ sentence was about my daily routine.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Chronological order

Put the following events in the order that they occurred. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Write the numbers 1-6 next to the sentence to show the correct order.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Police are investigating the discovery of a human head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The woman found a head in a garbage bag.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There was a homicide east of the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Police found a headless body 140Km east of Edmonton.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A woman was walking her dog in a back alley in Edmonton.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The victim was a man in his fifties.

### Discussion Question

Do you think the crime rate is rising? What things affect the rate of crime?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the words in the sentences in the correct order. The first one is done for you. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Words and Definitions   |
|---|
| issue – say something officially, something that is said by the government      |
| surrounding – everywhere around something                                       |
| slippery – difficult to stand on, or hold on to because something is wet or icy |
| commute – the journey to or from work or school                                 |
| resort – a place where people go to for work or school                          |

**Extra definition to help you understand the reading:**

**A silver lining – something that is good in a situation that seems bad**

1. a beef. The warning issued government about the  
The government issued a warning about the beef.

2. bad was in city the The weather the and surrounding areas.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. sidewalk snowstorm. The the after very slippery was  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. commute My 40 minutes takes each way. about  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. a beautiful in Hawaii. resort stayed We at  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ A heavy snowfall warning was issued on Sunday.
2. \_\_\_\_ 30 centimetres of snow fell.
3. \_\_\_\_ The snowfall amount was the largest in October since 2006.
4. \_\_\_\_ The city crews had to work for 48 hours to clear the roads.
5. \_\_\_\_ The city used its snow route parking ban.
6. \_\_\_\_ Skiers are happy about the weather.
7. \_\_\_\_ Calgary area ski hills have never opened this early.

### Discussion Question

Do you think that the global climate is changing? In what way has the weather changed in your lifetime? What might be the cause of these changes?

## Language Focus

### Transcripts of Weekly news stories

|              | OCTOBER 26 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES  | TIME |
|--------------|---|------|
| Introduction | Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC Calgary for October 26 <sup>th</sup> .  | 0:00 |
| Story 1      | A girl is dead after a bizarre crash in St. Paul, Alberta. A minivan crashed into a classroom at a school in the town, northeast of Edmonton Thursday morning. Eight grade 6 students were injured. On Friday one those students died. The minivan was racing through back alleys in Saint Paul. Then without slowing down, it slammed into the ground floor window of the Racette School, right into a grade 6 French class. Three students were pinned under the van. Police have charged the suspected driver, a 46-year-old man. They also say he is remorseful and concerned about what happened to the children.  | 0:10 |
| Story 2      | Police are investigating the discovery of a human head found in an Edmonton back alley. The police say the discovery is connected to a homicide east of the city. A woman walking her dog found the head Wednesday morning in a garbage bag near 132nd Avenue and 72nd Street. The previous Saturday evening, police had found a headless body near Ranfurly -- 140 kilometers east of Edmonton. RCMP say the victim was a man in his fifties.  | 1:04 |
| Story 3      | It's been slow going - on Calgary roads this week. A heavy snowfall warning was issued by environment Canada on Monday for Calgary and the surrounding area. From late Monday night into Tuesday morning - we got up to 20 centimetres of the white stuff around the city. It's the most snow we've had in October since 2006. Slippery roads made the morning commute slow going - with lots of crashes and transit delays. The city worked hard for 24 hours to clear the roads - but didn't have to use its "snow route-parking ban". But while driving in and around the city was dangerous, there was a silver lining to the early snowfall; it's good news for the ski hills around Calgary. For the first time, Nakiska and Norquay plan to open this week - the earliest opening of ski resorts ever in Canada. Canada Olympic Park in Calgary - is also opening this week. | 1:45 |

## Answer keys

### News story 1 Vocabulary

| Answer   | Word          | Definition                         |
|----------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>h</b> | 1. bizarre    | a) hit hard                        |
| <b>e</b> | 2. injured    | b) worried                         |
| <b>i</b> | 3. alley      | c) thought to be guilty            |
| <b>a</b> | 4. slammed    | d) a formal accusation             |
| <b>c</b> | 5. suspected  | e) hurt                            |
| <b>j</b> | 6. remorseful | f) held in place by something      |
| <b>b</b> | 7. concerned  | g) driving quickly                 |
| <b>f</b> | 8. pinned     | h) strange                         |
| <b>g</b> | 9. racing     | i) small side street behind houses |
| <b>d</b> | 10. charged   | j) feeling deep regret             |

### Listening

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ after a bizarre crash in St. Paul, AB.                  | a) A girl is dead<br>b) A driver was injured                  |
| 2. _____ grade _____ students were injured.                      | a) eight / six<br>b) six / eight                              |
| 3. The minivan was racing _____                                  | a) another car in the streets.<br>b) through the back alleys. |
| 4. The minivan slammed into the _____ of the Racette School.     | a) ground floor window<br>b) playground                       |
| 5. Three students were _____                                     | a) taken to the hospital.<br>b) pinned under the van.         |
| 6. The 46 year old driver is _____ and _____ about the children. | a) charged / cares<br>b) remorseful / concerned               |

### News story 2 Vocabulary

1. When two things are related we may say they are connected.
2. The person who suffers because of a crime is the victim.
3. When there is a homicide the police must investigate all the clues to find out who committed the crime.
4. The police made a very important discovery that will help them solve the crime.
5. My father is in his fifties.
6. Every week the garbage truck picks up our trash.
7. Every evening after I get home from work I make dinner.
8. The previous sentence was about my daily routine.

## Listening

- 6 Police are investigating the discovery of a human head.
- 5 The woman found a head in a garbage bag.
- 1 There was a homicide east of the city.
- 3 Police found a headless body 140Km east of Edmonton.
- 4 A woman was walking her dog in a back alley in Edmonton.
- 2 The victim was a man in his fifties.

## News story 3 Vocabulary

1. a beef. The warning issued government about the  
The government issued a warning about the beef.
2. bad was in city the The weather the and surrounding areas.  
The weather was bad in the city and the surrounding areas.
3. sidewalk snowstorm. The the after very slippery was  
The sidewalk was very slippery after the snowstorm.
4. commute My 40 minutes takes each way. about  
My commute takes about 40 minutes each way.
5. a beautiful in Hawaii. resort stayed We at  
We stayed at a beautiful resort in Hawaii.

## Listening

1. **F** A heavy snowfall warning was issued on Sunday.
2. **F** 30 centimetres of snow fell.
3. **T** The snowfall amount was the largest in October since 2006.
4. **F** The city crews had to work for 48 hours to clear the roads.
5. **F** The city used its snow route-parking ban.
6. **T** Skiers are happy about the weather.
7. **T** Calgary area ski hills have never opened this early.

## Language Focus

1. I **told** my friend I **had** already **finished** my homework.  
*First – I finished my work. Next – I told my friend*
2. I **thought** we **had decided** to take the day off.  
*First - we decided to take the day off. Next – I thought/remembered that decision*
3. I **went** to university after I **had graduated** from high school.  
*First – I finished high school. Next – I went to university*
4. The movie I **saw** was not as good as I **had expected**.  
*First – I expected to the movie to be good. Next – I saw the movie*
5. When I **got** home I **realized** I **had forgotten** to buy milk.  
*First – I forgot to buy milk Next – I got home and realized my mistake*